

The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1915.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month.....\$5 50
DAILY, Per Year.....\$55 00
SUNDAY, Per Month.....\$2 50
SUNDAY (to Canada), Per Month.....\$3 00
SUNDAY, Per Year.....\$25 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year.....\$80 00

FOREIGN RATES.

DAILY, Per Month.....\$1 35
DAILY, Per Year.....\$12 50
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month.....\$1 90

THE EVENING SUN, Per Month.....\$5 50
THE EVENING SUN, Per Year.....\$55 00
THE EVENING SUN (to Foreign), Per Mo. 1 00

All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published daily, including Sunday, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President and Treasurer, William C. Rusk, 170 Nassau street; Vice-President, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street; Secretary, C. E. Lusk, 170 Nassau street.

London office, Edinburgh House, 1 Arundel street, Strand.
Paris office, 6 Rue de la Michodiere, off Rue du Quatre Septembre.
Washington office, Hibbs Building.
Brooklyn office, 106 Livingston street.

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The Dacia.

There is a singular conflict of statement about the intentions of the British Government with regard to the Dacia, should that former Hamburg-American ship attempt to carry a cargo of cotton from Texas to Bremen, steaming under the American flag.

The Washington correspondent of the World, for instance, announced positively yesterday that the British Embassy had assured the War Risk Insurance Bureau of the Treasury Department that the Dacia and her cargo would be allowed to proceed without molestation; and this alleged communication was represented as "a most important concession to American shippers" on the part of England. On the other hand, nearly all the reports from Washington as well as from London agree in assuming that the Dacia will be seized at sea by Great Britain as a violator of international law, and that the legality or bona fides of her transfer to the American flag after the beginning of hostilities will be tested both in the British prize court by her captors, and, if the ship is condemned there, by the appeal of the present owners to our own courts, in order to determine her status.

One thing certain is that elaborate discussion of the possibilities involved in the case of the Dacia is at this time premature. Moreover, it is likely to be irritating, and for that reason it is to be avoided as long as may be. The general situation is full of difficulties in the way of the preservation of perfectly cordial relations with all the belligerents, whose temporary interest or military convenience may at any time come in conflict with our own pecuniary advantage and rights as a neutral. All the more important is it, therefore, that we should credit Great Britain and Germany alike with ordinary common sense under the circumstances. Surely, this is not a time when either of those nations is likely to put a chip on its shoulder in order to expatriate the United States.

It should be noted that even if Great Britain does make use of the case of the Dacia to question the validity of the transfer of such ships to the American flag after the beginning of hostilities, her attitude concerning that delicate question will differ in no respect from Germany's as communicated to the State Department a fortnight ago by Ambassador Gerard.

Some Common Sense for the School Board.

Dr. FINLEY, in his decision in the teacher-mother case, explains for the benefit of the Board of Education how it may rid the schools of any inefficient woman teacher, whether she be married or single, maid or mother. The procedure is not difficult and involves no strained construction of statutes, no subtleties, no fine drawn theories:

"Dismissal for general inefficiency" would be warranted if, upon return [after maternity] a teacher was found to be unable after trial to perform school duties."

Unfortunately this simple and common sense management of the teachers was never attempted by the board. Instead of treating the teachers as individuals it sought to establish regulations of universal application, overlooking the fact that most rules are made to be broken. Hence the unsavory mess in which board, teachers and, most unfortunately of all, the school became involved. Dr. FINLEY has set up for the board a guide post that points the way out from the ridiculous position in which stupidity has put it.

Germany's Need of Copper.

If any British authority should be well informed about Germany's production and importation of copper and her need of the metal in peace and war, Professor W. J. ASHLEY of the University of Birmingham is the man. He is held in such good esteem in Germany that his "Progress of the German Working Classes" and other books on economics have been translated. There is so much misinformation about Germany's relation to copper as absolute contraband by England's declaration that some statistics furnished by Professor ASHLEY at a recent meeting of the Birmingham Metallurgical Society are timely and instructive.

Germany today is the second consumer of copper in the world, the United States being first. England uses two-thirds as much copper as Germany. It is now twelve years since Germany forged ahead. In 1902 the amount used in the industries of that country was

100,000 tons; the total rose to 230,000 tons in 1912, and of that great amount only one-tenth was produced at home. Of the nine-tenths of imported copper fourteen-fifths came from the United States, the other fifth from England and Australia. In May last Germany, according to Professor ASHLEY, had only 8,000 tons on hand, and it is his belief that in the interval before the war almost as much was used in the industries as Germany imported. He calculates that her need of copper since early in August, that is to say, since the war began, has become so great, owing to England's command of the sea, that the shortage may soon affect her military efficiency.

The interest of the United States in selling copper to Germany, and to other European customers, may be judged from the fact that 60 per cent. of the world's supply—these are not Professor ASHLEY's figures—is produced by the United States. Mexico was recently a poor second, and other producers came in the following order: Spain and Portugal, Japan, Australia, Chile and Germany, with Russia eighth. This list reveals the difficulty the Germans will have in getting any copper at all except from the United States, and from the United States only by evading British search on the high seas and importing by land through neutral countries on the Continent.

Synonymous.

The sentence of President WILSON's Jackson Day address in which the most conservative readers saw more plainly indicated than in any other passage the possibility that he might be a candidate for reelection was this:

"The time may come when the American people will be called on to judge whether I knew what I am talking about or not."

Coming from a man whose chief abhorrence is the inflated ego of the self-seeking politician, this declaration appeared to be reasonably explicit—as explicit as was necessary or desirable. But yesterday the President explained that he had been greatly wronged by a widespread misinterpretation of his remarks generally, and of this one specifically. Washington informs us:

"President Wilson today elaborated certain points of his Indianapolis speech to White House callers. He said emphatically that he was not thinking of a second term for himself in any part of that speech, but that he had in mind the judgment of the country which will be passed on the Democratic party in the next campaign."

In other words, the first personal singular pronoun applied to Woodrow Wilson comprises and comprehends the Democratic party as it is to appeal to the country in 1916, according to President Wilson's own explanation. This will not surprise the observant student of present conditions and recent history. Has Mr. Wilson not been the Democratic party ever since November, 1912?

The Tameful Laborer's Hire.

Again the popular dispute as to the excessive pay of the opera singer is before the world. Nothing is more delightful to the public than the casual discussion of the earnings of those popular performers who receive a few thousand dollars every time they open their overpaid mouths.

As a matter of fact there has been no decrease in the compensation of singers in the past forty years. There could never be another preponderant factor, since there are too many singers today. In every department of musical art the executives have greatly increased in number. Yet there is one figure in the operatic world as nearly unique as ever the historical ADRIANA was in her day. He is the tenor of our own opera house and receives whenever he sings half as much as the most generous sum ever attributed by tradition to the great soprano.

If there arrives another tenor who exercises the same potent sway over the public he will receive the same liberal compensation. The laborer in every vineyard is worthy of his hire. It is those that are not who seem to represent in the highest degree the folly of paying opera singers more than they are really worth.

So long as MAURICE GRAU had at the Metropolitan Opera House a complete monopoly of important operatic enterprise in this country he could well have regulated the rate of compensation in accordance with some reasonable law of supply and demand. But he was the product of a school of managers that deferred to the "star" singer whether the voice happened to be tenor or soprano. The appearance of OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN created at once competition. Then came the later companies in Chicago and Philadelphia and the control of the compensation of the singers passed from the directors. The compensation promised to artists all but unknown in this country for their services in Chicago during the present year represented the final absurdity in this direction. The season was not held, to be sure, but there was no such event in contemplation when these contracts were made.

Thus after all these years of discussion of the amount to which an operatic artist is entitled, nothing in all operatic history in this country ever departed so far from the rules of business and ordinary experience as the compensation assured to certain leading members of this Chicago company. Luckily these contracts were abrogated by the war, but the fact remains that no progress had been made in all these years in reference to the value of the singers' services.

The other departments in operatic enterprise have greatly increased in expense during recent years. There has been no counterbalancing diminution in the cost of the artists, although their lessened importance in the whole scheme might suggest such a change. Instead there has been the tendency to make them more costly. This has not happened under the beneficent administration of GIULIO GATTI-CASAZZA at

the Metropolitan Opera House. It is his business control which has gained for him in such a high degree the confidence of his directors, just as his artistic ability has won for him the admiration of the public.

Many of the contracts of the artists now at the Metropolitan Opera House expire with this season. It may confidently be predicted that when they come to be renewed the present managing director of that institution will do justice to the singer, the public and the generous gentlemen who make such performances of opera possible.

For the Improvement of the Navy.

The House Naval Committee did a good day's work when it adopted the following amendments to the Naval Appropriation bill: creating the ranks of Admiral and Vice-Admiral for the Atlantic, Pacific and Asiatic fleets; abolishing the Plucking Board and restoring a number of its victims to the active list, and increasing the commissioned personnel of the marine corps to officer an added battalion. For good measure the committee accepted the Bathrick bill increasing the rank of warrant officers; also the Padgett bill providing for the award of distinguished service medals to officers and men of the army, navy and marine corps, with special reference to the Vera Cruz expedition.

The need of the higher naval ranks has long been urged upon Congress, and the argument that the commander and second in command of an American fleet should not be outranked by officers of foreign services when ships were in port or engaged in joint operations, was unanswerable. The total number of officers in the navy is not to be increased, the selections for Admiral and Vice-Admiral being made in time of peace from the list of Rear Admirals. It is at least a debatable question whether the interests of the navy would not be served by promotions to Rear Admiral when fleet commanders and second in command were appointed.

The Plucking Board is an arbitrary arrangement and a makeshift. Although it makes vacancies and facilitates promotion, it often works an injustice. Flagrant was the case of Captain TEMPLE M. POTTS, who had passed the examination for promotion to Rear Admiral and was retired by the Plucking Board for insufficiency of sea service, when the fact was that an assignment by request of a superior officer to responsible work in Washington accounted for the alleged disability.

THE SUN has already advocated action by Congress to reward officers who distinguished themselves at Vera Cruz. The legislation proposed by the Bathrick bill is meritorious, because, as Chief Gunner DONNELLY pointed out at a committee hearing, the "chief" warrant officers are among the most useful in the service, being "specialists in their line," and yet even a dentist out of rank them. If the promotions asked for are bestowed enlisted men will be encouraged to remain in the navy, not only because the rank of lieutenant will be open to them, but because they may have an opportunity to act as executive officers of naval reserve units. Any rational and legitimate change in reorganization that will increase the number of trained men in the service and retain them in it for life is to be commended.

When the railroads are losing money and ask permission of their Government regulators to increase charges for transportation, Senator LA FOLLETTE and similar incurables cry aloud that the reasonableness of rates is all which the Interstate Commerce Commission can pass upon and argue that the state of railroad earnings offers no test of reasonableness. It is difficult to understand such unreason as this.

Senator LA FOLLETTE has attacked the recent ruling in the Eastern rate case granting a large portion of the so-called 5 per cent. increases which had been asked for. He has introduced into the Senate a resolution amounting practically to a legislative attempt to recall the Interstate Commerce Commission's decision, and the grounds of his contention are substantially that the commission made its findings chiefly with regard to the declining tendency of railroad earnings as accelerated by the European war, whereas the commission has authority only to determine the reasonableness of rates.

In the progress of regulation of the railroads the Government has acquired responsibility for railroad finances. In taking away from the owners of the railroads and their managing representatives any real control over the rate factor in railroad income the Government has placed the railway industry on a different footing from every form of unregulated enterprise.

Railroad profits are strictly limited by Government permissions. This being so it must follow, if there is any logic in regulation, that railroad losses are to be governmentally limited to the extent that it is in the power of Government to curtail loss. How much money the railroads are making or are not making becomes accordingly an essential question in the determination of the reasonableness of rates.

Rates which the railroads nominally fix but which the Government actually prescribes would be the most unreasonable things in the world if the Government regulators did not take into account the state of railroad finances for which the Government has made itself largely responsible.

Whether a law to prevent the marriage of white and colored persons in the District of Columbia would be humane and wise may be a debatable question. But there can be no doubt that the Metropolitan Opera House. It is his business control which has gained for him in such a high degree the confidence of his directors, just as his artistic ability has won for him the admiration of the public.

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as to the abomination of a statute which would annul and void a marriage, contracted legally elsewhere, as soon as the couple entered the District and which would render them liable to pains and penalties for continuing to live in the marriage state. Such a law would be cruel, unjust and immoral. Besides it might involve some very delicate questions of an attempt was made to apply it to foreigners. Mixed marriages are far from unpopular in Latin America and are not unknown in southern Europe.

In a town up the State a disagreeable man set a trap for his brethren and sisters. Twenty-five were tempted with dimes slipped into their change and then watched to see what they would do about it. Seven men and one woman pocketed the change, uncounted and never knew of the bait. Four men and two women found and returned the coin. Eleven succumbed to greed and unconscious of the watch upon them pocketed the illicit gain. Even happier than those who demonstrated rectitude in the sight of whose indifference to lucre made them winners without blame. Unhappy are the detected pilferers indeed, but probably the sorest people in the town are the remaining 2,013 inhabitants who missed the chance to make either a record or ten cents.

When it is said that the United States must give the Philippines self-government, the present time in order to preserve the national honor, what is meant precisely? Who pledges that autonomy in 1915 and when did he make the pledge and what right or authority had he to make such a pledge? Such a thing has been the topic of campaign oratory, but is the business of the country involved in campaign professions? In order to vindicate Mr. BRYAN, for instance, must the Filipino be entrusted with responsibilities which for the present can only harm him, and must Americans have to take the risk of mutual bloodshed and destruction in the islands? Has anybody except Congress in formal resolution the power to pledge the country to any policy?

A good many Americans are asking whether, having destroyed one Government, the United States is to stand by and watch a perpetuity of anarchy set up in its place. To that question the President's dilemma is a poor answer. The same, he regarded as an answer in the affirmative.—London Times.

The President does not call it anarchy but "a struggle for liberty."

MR. RUDYARD KIPLING can write the words for war songs as well as any man, but whether Sir CHARLES STANFORD can set them to old English airs that Tommy Atkins will sing is another matter. Sir CHARLES, admitting that "Tipperary" is a fine air, does not like the words, and his taste is good—the words reek of the cheap music hall. But why not let Mr. KIPLING provide something better?

General VILLA's provisional President on probation, EMILIO GUERRERO, has declared void the concession to the National Dynamite and Explosive Company of Mexico on the ground that as a monopoly it is unconstitutional. There is humor still in that distressful country. What is the Constitution between Villistas or between them and any other kind of patriots? Can it be that the monopoly has not furnished the commander of the Army of the North with the explosives he wants?

Los Angeles reports that "an earthquake rocked Santa Barbara to-night." Connoisseurs say that Santa Barbara is the most delightful spot in all California. It will doubtless resent the aspersion and hurl the earthquake back in the teeth of Los Angeles, which is only ninety miles away.

I don't know when [the war] will end, but I do know when it will begin, and that is in the month of May.—Ascribed to Lord KITCHENER.

Apocryphally probably. Too flippant for K. of K.

Policeman FRANKLIN TRAYER has presence of mind as well as courage. Before jumping into the North River in the raft at West Ninety-seventh street to rescue Boatwain's Mate WILLIAM WILLIAMS of the U. S. S. Wasp, who had fallen in and become unconscious through hitting an ice cake with his head, Trayer fired his pistol three times to summon aid. As a result two other policemen and a naval officer were soon on the spot with every girl out of work and needing it gets employment at that minimum wage?

To put the case differently, why should Alexander Selous, for instance, who gets \$5 but needs \$2 more, and close his eyes to the far worse plight of Lucy, who is getting nothing at all? So we come to this: that it is our duty to see that every girl needing it has a place at a living wage, which every one will admit at least is somewhat revolutionary.

But if this is our duty, it is easy to demonstrate logically that it is likewise our duty to see that every man, woman and child who needs it has employment at a living wage. Every one will admit at least a somewhat revolutionary proposition.

As he said, anti-suffragists are also anxious to have the question decided by "our people" (our voters, he means—a common error), still though woman suffrage be not won the anti will have gained and the suffragists will have lost nothing. A new vote for women campaign will immediately be started in New York State. LINDA L. CONSENT.

New York, January 12.

Denial From the State Department.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Secretary Bryan's friends here deny absolutely the report from Virginia which represents the Secretary as having voluntarily sent to the Sheriff of Fairfax county a check for the amount of the fine usually imposed for rabbit hunting out of season, and the costs of the case.

This method of settling the matter has never suggested itself to Colonel Bryan, according to his intimates.

The X-Ray in Wartime.

To the Editor of The Sun.—Sir: How undignified of the Allies to resort to a great German scientific discovery for ascertaining the contraband contents of boxes of cotton.

New York, January 11.

Economy First.

"How to Eat and Grow Thin," they say. Is a book that's new in style. But "How to Starve and Grow Fat" to me seems cheaper and hence worth while.

H. S. H.

Rocky Mountain Park Favored.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The House Public Lands Committee reported favorably this afternoon the bill providing for Rocky Mountain National Park, near Denver.

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPT INTERESTS ANTIQUARIANS.

Discovered in Washington and Entitled "The Constitution of the United States."

To the Editor of The Sun.—Sir: A few days ago there was dug up in Washington a reactionary, standpoint, obsolete document entitled "The Constitution of the United States." A perusal of this curious relic affords all true uplifters cause for rejoicing that it was discarded and forgotten long ago.

In perusing this ancient parchment, with its old fashioned provisions for safeguarding the personal and property rights which were the cornerstone of what at least was described as a "constitution," showing material prosperity, we cannot but wonder how we ever got along without Louis Brandeis to discipline wicked railroad men whose insatiable greed demands almost half as high rates as foreign roads charge and gives only twice as good service.

How we marvel at our former misguided course in selling goods abroad, subject to legitimate war risks, before we had a President who could show us how to impose voluntary, angelic restraints on ourselves, to impoverish our own people and forego an incidental opportunity to assist those it is to our advantage to help!

How fortunate we are when American statesmen of the model of 1915 generously take the time needed for framing arbitration treaties that tie our hands while what we want slips away, or in helping Mexicans plunder Americans, or in the outright robbery of men whose property was guaranteed to them by law in the constitutional dark ages, if they happen to be engaged in the liquor business.

Let us be thankful for our new crop of superconscientious leaders. Persons with mere book learning ridicule the efforts of these patriots to connect prohibition with Christianity, and declare that both the Hebrew and the Greek in which the Scriptures came to us have separate and distinct words for fermented and unfermented wine, and that the word for the fermented beverage is the one used in nearly every instance in which its use is inferentially approved in the Bible; but let us rally to our statesmen, even if they are not sufficiently educated to know this. After all, what is some worth in public affairs? A State needs for its guidance impulse, instinct and intuition.

Let us turn also to the harrowing details of this discredited Constitution, and see what we have escaped: "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress" instead of in an Executive with a patronage mill. "The House of Representatives shall elect one member for every three years, and exclusively a field for the triumph of Mrs. Sembrich's art it will be understood that she has lost none of her old time imagination, tenderness, poetic sentiment and arch humor.

One has only to recall her delivery yesterday of Schubert's "Forelle," Schumann's "Der Nussbaum" and "Auftrag," Brahms's "Hosche," and "Die Forelle," and "Vergilisches Ständchen" to realize that she is still the beloved mistress of the interpretative art in singing. She has sung "Nussbaum" better than she sang it yesterday, but the real climax of the recital was reached in Schumann's "Lieder der Braut," Nos. 1 and 2, which no one else has sung in our country. Her voice, her insight, such moving emotion and such a perfect adjustment of the means to the end. Second only to this was her "Nussbaum," which was filled with retrospective power and with irresistible yearning.

In the final group were Rachmaninov's "Kakim lobos" and Moniuszko's "Przeznienica," both sung with fine feeling and Debussy's "Fantoche" and first "Aquarelle" (Debussy's is an unfamiliar name on Mrs. Sembrich's program), Frank La Forge's charming song, "Longue," "Kom Kyra," the Norwegian folksong, "Kjærlighetskvædet," and the singer's great feiz-song programme a few seasons back. Mr. La Forge's song had to be repeated, and the composer, who played all the accompaniments with consummate art, received a warm tribute from the audience.

Of course there were numerous extra numbers; after the first group, "Frühlingssong" and "The Coolin"—ravishingly sung—after the third a Polish mazurka song and after the seventh a few others, beginning with "The Lass With the Delicate Air." Such an achievement as that of yesterday must be accorded the warmest tribute of critical praise to which must be added a fervent expression of gratitude that this artist is still here to demonstrate for us all the uplifting power of beautiful singing.

THE KNEISEL QUARTET.

Italian Composition of Modern Style Has First Hearing.

The third concert of the Kneisel Quartet took place last evening in Aeolian Hall. The programme comprised V. Tommasini's quartet in F major, Beethoven's C major quartet, opus 59, No. 3, and the Brahms piano quintet in minor. The latter was featured as the first performance in this city of the Tommasini quartet and the reappearance in the capacity of assisting artist of Alexander Lammert, who has dwelt in the more or less peaceful seclusion of teaching for about twenty years. Mr. Tommasini has a good name in the history of music, for it was a Tommasini (with one who was his concert master) in the Esterhazy orchestra when Haydn was the director of music, and this Tommasini gave the father of the quartet by the way in which he played his works in that form. This Tommasini also composed some quartets himself, but these have not survived.

The young Italian whose music was heard last night is thousands of miles away from Haydn's Tommasini. He is acquainted with scales and chord successions of which no one had dreamed in the Esterhazy times. They would have astonished even Haydn, whose final place in the introduction to "The Creation" has family resemblance to certain characteristic parts of his concertos.

The new Tommasini is a modern of the moderns and he writes with all the strong feeling for progressions of whole intervals for a harmonic atmosphere of overtones and for clash of heavy dissonances brought about by the movement of his polyphony. In his slow movement there was evidence of some of the same, albeit perhaps not of the highest order, while the finale showed a keener feeling for fundamental rhythm than the impassioned writers are wont to show.

The quartet was interesting, but it did not at a first hearing seem to be important. The Beethoven number belongs to the old familiar repertoire of the Kneisels. It was played last evening by all Kneisel aggregations have been wont to play it, no matter what other two have dwelt with the veterans, Kneisel and Sveceni.

Mr. Lammert's piano playing has not radically changed with the flight of years. He still possesses his incisive rhythmic and his facile technique and he plays like a musician. He fit well into the ensemble last evening and shared hoarse applause with the members of the quartet.

Washington Square Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Washington Square Association was held yesterday afternoon in the chapel of the Old First Presbyterian Church on John Clinton street. The programme was made up of addresses, and speeches were made by Alderman Henry H. Curran, Borough President Marcus M. Marks and Park Commissioner James H. Ward. Retiring members of the executive committee were

MARCELLA SEMBRICH IN SONG RECITAL

Famous Soprano Returns to Platform With Art of Beautiful Singing.

NOTABLE AUDIENCE THERE

Mme. Marcella Sembrich, who was not in this country last winter, was heard in song recital for the benefit of suffering Poles yesterday afternoon in Carnegie Hall. The usual accompaniments of enthusiastic crowds and still more enthusiastic applause were present. The audience quite filled the hall and some people had to stand. Among those who listened to Mme. Sembrich were one distinguished statesman at the opera, Mrs. Emma Calvé, Mme. Alda of the present opera company, the singer's popular pupil Alma Gluck, the Russian pianist, the pianist, and Richard Epstein, son of the distinguished piano teacher who advised Mme. Sembrich to become a singer.

Mme. Sembrich's programme yesterday did not include any old Italian airs. It began with five Schubert songs, and the second group consisted of six songs of Schumann. The first of these was Brahms's "Hosche," which she sang with a third group and the last was a miscellaneous. Six languages and at least ten styles were heard, and the recital furnished food for reflection as well as comfort.

Mme. Sembrich's voice is in a condition which was nothing short of extraordinary, for she is not a young woman and she has seen long service in the field of her art. Only a few tones were uncertain and only once or twice was the intonation questionable, and then only to a keen ear. If there had been anything in this in concert, that which it published as the value of a correct technique in keeping the useful qualities of a voice serviceable and the beautiful sunset of a brilliant career should have been enough. That Mme. Sembrich will be able to sing through the sunset, through the gloaming and into the evening, like Lill Lehmann, who at 47 is still singing, is a recital not long ago in Berlin, seems fairly certain.

However, the beauty of the voice and the excellence of the technique, important as they were, constituted the most admirable features of the recital. This is a period well supplied with song singers, and the art of interpretation is perhaps better than it has been for a long time. It was before. People have heard many really accomplished and some genuinely great lieder singers and therefore it is said that there are still some songs which are almost exclusively a field for the triumph of Mrs. Sembrich's art it will be understood that she has lost none of her old time imagination, tenderness, poetic sentiment and arch humor.

One has only to recall her delivery yesterday of Schubert's "Forelle," Schumann's "Der Nussbaum" and "Auftrag," Brahms's "Hosche," and "Die Forelle," and "Vergilisches Ständchen" to realize that she is still the beloved mistress of the interpretative art in singing. She has sung "Nussbaum" better than she sang it yesterday, but the real climax of the recital was reached in Schumann's "Lieder der Braut," Nos. 1 and 2, which no one else has sung in our country. Her voice, her insight, such moving emotion and such a perfect adjustment of the means to the end. Second only to this was her "Nussbaum," which was filled with retrospective power and with irresistible yearning.

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The third concert of the Kneisel Quartet took place last evening in Aeolian Hall. The programme comprised V. Tommasini's quartet in F major, Beethoven's C major quartet, opus 59, No. 3, and the Brahms piano quintet in minor. The latter was featured as the first performance in this city of the Tommasini quartet and the reappearance in the capacity of assisting artist of Alexander Lammert, who has dwelt in the more or less peaceful seclusion of teaching for about twenty years. Mr. Tommasini has a good name in the history of music, for it was a Tommasini (with one who was his concert master) in the Esterhazy orchestra when Haydn was the director of music, and this Tommasini gave the father of the quartet by the way in which he played his works in that form. This Tommasini also composed some quartets himself, but these have not survived.

The young Italian whose music was heard last night is thousands of miles away from Haydn's Tommasini. He is acquainted with scales and chord successions of which no one had dreamed in the Esterhazy times. They would have astonished even Haydn, whose final place in the introduction to "The Creation" has family resemblance to certain characteristic parts of his concertos.

The new Tommasini is a modern of the moderns and he writes with all the strong feeling for progressions of whole intervals for a harmonic atmosphere of overtones and for clash of heavy dissonances brought about by the movement of his polyphony. In his slow movement there was evidence of some of the same, albeit perhaps not of the highest order, while the finale showed a keener feeling for fundamental rhythm than the impassioned writers are wont to show.

The quartet was interesting, but it did not at a first hearing seem to be important. The Beethoven number belongs to the old familiar repertoire of the Kneisels. It was played last evening by all Kneisel aggregations have been wont to play it, no matter what other two have dwelt with the veterans, Kneisel and Sveceni.

Mr. Lammert's piano playing has not radically changed with the flight of years